

Technology Advisory Committee

Special Meeting

Minutes

May 17, 2007

The Technology Advisory Committee met on May 17, 2007 in City Hall, Council Chambers.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by the Chairman.

II. Roll Call

☒ Chris Price – Chair

☐ Mike Jamerson

☒ Steve Baker

☒ Mark Farr

☒ Mark McHolland

☒ Jim Hartsook

☒ Oakel Hardy

☐ Georgia Miller

Invited Guests:

Brent Engle

Other Attendees:

Stan Gamso, Counsel

III. Discussion

The Chairman noted that this meeting was being called to help develop an agenda for a subsequent meeting that will be held with the responders of the optical fiber RFP.

Ed Curtain, a representative of the Columbus Redevelopment Commission, and Jim Clous, Community Development, provided an overview of changes coming in the community, specifically, the downtown area where there might be some business opportunities for persons to use optical fiber to the conduits that have been installed pursuant to this Committee's recommendations and the City's actions.

Ed Curtain presented an illustration of the future view of the downtown area. It was reported that the new development plan will have provisions for new hotels, an indoor and outdoor sports complex, the Candlewood Hotel, Indigo Hotel, Sears, a new parking garage, and a Training and Conference Center. Part of the plan also gives rise to the development of more downtown office space and future residences. Part of the downtown plan would call for the creation of more downtown commercial spaces. There is a future area between Second and Third Streets near the bridge being considered for commercial development.

Jim Clous reports there will be increased business development in the Woodside area were they think it may be possible to utilize further extension of optical fiber down State Road. 46 and out to the Woodside area. He also suggested that the optical fiber system may be a benefit to downtown businesses. Jim also noted that the former Cummins facility on Central Avenue known as Plant 2 has recently been sold and acquired by an Asian company that will be developing a research facility and incubator project to solicit and bring new Asian business entities to the community. That facility today is on the route of the fiber conduit and would be on the route for optical fiber.

The old Golden operations facility is in an area of some 16 acres and is currently being razed. Future plans call for a Civic Center, residential and light industrial facility or some combination thereof. Again, this facility is within one city block of the present route of the conduit and soon-to-be optical fiber.

Jim also noted that the airport area would have an opportunity for use of the optical fiber system in that there are a number of businesses in the technology park which would have an interest in having additional fiber service and/or redundant fiber service.

Going around the room, the Chair asked the respective members of the Committee if they had any ideas for possible clients for the optical fiber system based upon their own respective employers and/or disciplines. Oakel reported for the City that he's spoken with the Mayor who has had conversations with a number of downtown businesses. The Mayor has expressed interest in having further downtown meetings to determine the possible use for the new optical fiber.

Jim Hartsook, on behalf of the County, reported that the County would not be in a position to take advantage of the new optical fiber route, although he did suggest that the Committee might want to suggest to responders that that would maximize the number of vendors who would have access to the optical fiber. He questioned who would be able to establish a rule for usage of the fiber, a business and contract issue. More importantly a framework for the managed growth of the fiber would be necessary.

Steve Baker, on behalf of Columbus Regional Hospital, reported that the hospital has an interest in some form of point-to-point contact between their buildings. They would also have a need for a second provider for phone and data services in a separate backhaul. The hospital also has a need for data services to their training center. They have a new construction project that will result in the displacement of a number of their employees into other facilities that have been scattered about the community, all of which will require connectivity and provide speed and services that the hospital's current employees enjoy today.

Mark McHolland advised that Arvin is in the process of divesting itself of one of its remaining entities in Columbus. He believes that the purchaser of the divested properties would have a possible use for the optical fiber and/or redundant route.

Chris Price reported that his employer, Cummins, would have an interesting point-to-point service in this community between its various buildings.

Mark Farr reported that Ivy Tech has an immediate need for this optical fiber line. They would like nothing better than to move forward immediately. In addition, he noted that while he is not affiliated with Indiana University, I.U. would have the same data needs as does Ivy Tech because they are both located at the airport within just a few hundred feet of each other.

Oakel reported that the City of Columbus will be building a new fire station at the airport and that is a possible user of the new fiber line. He reports that there are other city facilities possibilities at the airport, e.g., police and fire garage, animal shelter. Oakel was of the opinion that because the City installed the fiber conduit, the City would always look to the use of the fiber that's installed in the City conduit first or more preferentially than other services. He also noted that with the coming construction of the new airport facility, the City's need for use of this fiber line would be immediate.

The general discussion among the Committee members focused on the development of an agenda to develop a more narrow and focused review of the community's needs in the hope that they might provide the responders to the optical fiber RFP sufficient and/or additional information necessary to help them refine their submissions based upon the RFP. It was also discussion to extend the turnaround time by the responders to no more than two weeks.

It was the agreed that the new date established for resubmission of the RFP or submission of an addendum by the responders would be Tuesday, June 5 at 5 p.m.

The Chairman reported that he would develop presentation material for the special meeting with responders. Brent was going to develop a one-page document listing the potential customers and/or users of services based on information shared in this meeting.

Special meeting with responders of the optical fiber RFP will be held May 22, 2007 in the council chambers at City Hall at 1:30 p.m.

IV. Adjournment

Motion was made by the Chairman and seconded by McHolland to adjourn. After a unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Stanley A. Gamso, Counsel